GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1983
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2002
PANEL TO STUDY PROBLEMS OF TEA AND COFFEE INDUSTRY
T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals from the associations of planters of tea and coffee to set up an export panel to study their problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether due to import of tea in large quantities from Sri Lanka and other countries, the domestic tea industry has been badly affected; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect domestic tea industry?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) : No, Sir.

(b)& (c) : Do not arise.

(d) and (e) : The import of tea into India has mainly been for the purpose of re-export and therefore there has not been any major adverse impact of import of tea into India on the domestic tea industry. However, in order to protect the interests of the tea industry under the current quantitative restrictions-free regime, the basic customs duty on import of tea has been increased from 70% to 100% as announced in the Budget of 2002-2003.